

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 40 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Another alternative (~~not depicted~~) provides that when sellers are listing auctions on the Auctioneer's site, they are offered the option to allow only bonded bidders, or only bonded bidders with deposit accounts, to bid on the auction. The Auctioneer's database will then be checked when a bidder places a bid to see whether that bidder is bonded before the bid will actually be placed.